

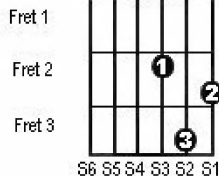
A Cool Key for November

Well folks it's November in Manitoba and you know what that means! That's right things are starting to cool down, but chill out man! It ain't that bad yet. Down here at **Wires 'N Wood** we spent most last month clearing the chimney, chopping wood and stuffing blankets in the cracks around the door jam at the backdoor. But all that labor was worth it and we're ready for winter. So let's kick back in front of the fire place and go over a new key shall we?

This month we're going to tackle the key of A-major. Like all our preceding keys in this series this is just the next step following on the heels of D-major and involves learning only one new chord. That chord is E-major. By now I hope you have begun to master both A & D-major, the other two chords in this key. I know that they were both quite a challenge. The good news is that E-major is not quite so difficult. It does involve getting two fingers in close proximity into the area of one fret but the positioning of the fingering makes this easier to do in this case so it isn't that hard. E-major is another one of those chords that is well worth learning because it often appears in other keys as an accidental chord.

Below is the chord chart and illustrated fingerings to **D-major, A-major & E-major**, which are the chords that combine to make up the **key of A**.

D-major

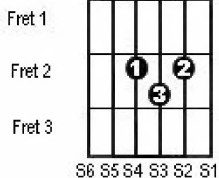


Fingers 1 & 2

Finger 3



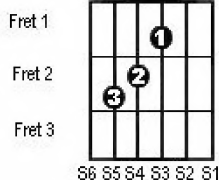
A-major



Fingers 1,3 & 2



E-major



Finger 1

Fingers 3 & 2



- = Fretted Note
- × = Muted (Do not Sound)
- = Open String (Sound)



By now you should be fairly competent in chording in at least one or two keys if not more. Besides practicing this new key for the prescribed amount of time each day I would like you to do one more thing for me. Seek out other musicians to play with. Don't worry if your not as good as they might be, and remember if you're better than them not to be judgmental of their skills. Don't just play in the safe sanctuary of your room. Don't be a closet guitarist. Play with other musicians when ever you can. That's where the fun really is and it's good practice too.

Good luck! Have fun and I'll see you at the next JAM!

If you have any questions, corrections or suggestions for Wires'N Wood be sure to email me at elheath@mts.net or just grab-a-hold of me at the next Westman Jam.

Elger Heath
Amateur Editorialist